

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:FHMISCH:JCM

APPROVED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ

EA/P - MR. SMITH (SUBS.)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: UTSUNOMIYA CONVERSATION

REF: SEOUL 1042

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED ON SUBJECT OF
NSC - UTSUNOMIYA CONTACT:

BEGIN QUOTE

QUESTION: THE JAPANESE PRESS HAS REPORTED (YOMIURI
FEB. 4) THAT DIET MEMBER UTSUNOMIYA DURING HIS RECENT TRIP
TO WASHINGTON WAS VISITED BY TWO MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL
SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF AND DISCUSSED THE SITUATION ON THE
KOREAN PENINSULA, PARTICULARLY HIS TRIPS TO NORTH KOREA.
CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT CONTACT BY THE NSC STAFF MEMBERS,
AND CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE YOMIURI REPORT WHICH SAYS THAT TH
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THE US WOULD BEGIN EFFORTS TO APPROACH NORTH KOREAN
LEADERS AND THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS VERY
POSITIVE ON ARMS LIMITATIONS BY BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH
KOREA?

ANSWER: TWO NSC STAFF MEMBERS MET WITH MR. UTSUNOMIYA ON
FEBURARY 1, AT HIS REQUEST ON THE BASIS OF UTSUNOMIYA'S

PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE WITH ONE OF THE MEMBERS. THE FACT OF THE MEETING IN NO WAY INDICATES ANY CHANGE IN POLICIES WITH REGARD TO NORTH KOREA, NOR WAS ANYTHING SAID AT THE MEETING INTENDED TO SUGGEST THAT ANY SUCH CHANGES WERE CONTEMPLATED. WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT, AS DOES THE ROK, A RESUMPTION OF A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. SECRETARY VANCE REITERATED A BASIC ELEMENT IN OUR POLICY TOWARD KOREA WHEN HE SAID AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE LAST MONDAY (1/3L/77) "WE WILL DO NOTHING WITHOUT FULL AND COMPLETE CONSULTATION WITH SOUTH KOREA".

QUESTION: SOME PEOPLE INTERPRET THAT STATEMENT TO MEAN THAT PERHAPS THERE IS SOME EFFORT TO ESTABLISH DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE NORTH KOREANS, AND THAT THIS MAY BE TAKING PLACE WITH THEM AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT. IS THIS THE CASE?

ANSWER: NO CONTACTS ARE BEING MADE. END QUOTE

2. AS OF FEBRUARY 7, SUBJECT HAS NOT BEEN RAISED AT PRESS BRIEFINGS. EMBASSY AT ITS DISCRETION MAY PASS GUIDANCE TO ROKG.
VANCE

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